

Efficiency's name

Much has been said of late about the subsistence controversy and the 35 proposed amendments to the subsistence regulations administered by the Alaska Board of Fish and Game.

The accusation has been put forth that the proposals were intentionally inflammatory in order to cause a groundswell of public opposition to the state subsistence law.

The answer to that accusation from game officials has been that they have the obligation to put all possible regulations "on the table" for public discussion in order to live up to their responsibilities as game board representatives.

The argument also has been put forth that subsistence hunters need the most efficient methods in order to hunt efficiently and thus obtain food for their tables.

What a view that game division must have of subsistence users to have come up with these proposals. But we must "suggest" that if the board aimed at efficient take and all possible means, the division didn't do its job.

For example, in the name of efficiency, perhaps one could lease a helicopter with a fully automatic mini-machine gun to hunt caribou.

Or perhaps whole forests could be burned to the ground in order to "efficiently" flush out game.

There are virtually hundreds of ways in which to "efficiently" hunt game.

And all of them are equally "efficient" and all of them are as ridiculous as some of these 35 proposals to "bomb Bambi."

Who are they kidding with that argument? That sort of rationale is similar to cutting off an arm to save a hangnail. Or the nose to spite the face.

It looks as if these proposals will be largely defeated when the Game Board meets next week. After all the only people who supported them were the people who oppose subsistence. That should show a lot about the sincerity in which they were proposed and about their validity.